

(Newark, NJ 07102)  
1977

# SPARK

NEWSLETTER OF THE E.C.C. STUDENTS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE

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## E.C.C. STUDENTS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE FOUNDED

Following is the resolution passed by several students of Essex County College on December 28, 1976. On this day the students met to discuss the repression faced by the students, faculty and staff at the college. The outcome of this meeting was this resolution to organize in defense of the right of students to participate in political activity.

### RESOLUTION TO ORGANIZE

IN DEFENSE OF THE RIGHT OF STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY

#### WHEREAS:

- 1) The Essex County College administration, Board of Trustees and other governmental agencies have a long history of anti-student, anti-people practices. Students and others in the college community have continually opposed these practices. The administration and other governmental authorities have sought to crush any person or organization that has dared to oppose their views and policies. Some notable examples include the following:
    - a) In January 1970, students, faculty and staff protested against various racist, anti-working class and anti-student policies of the E.C.C. authorities. The E.C.C. authorities fired faculty members who participated. The Superior Court issued an injunction against the faculty members. The Board of Trustees made various false "agreements" with the protesting students which were never kept. Through these methods, the E.C.C. authorities tried to terminate the just struggle of the students, faculty and staff.
    - b) In December 1973, students and others in the college community protested against the appointment of a known racist to fill an administration post. This appointment was carried out by violating an "agreement" made with the students in 1970. The Superior Court issued an injunction against the student organization leading the struggle as well as individual students and faculty participants. The injunction banned them from speaking at rallies and press conferences on the grounds that they were "impeding the normal functions of E.C.C." The E.C.C. authorities threatened to fire faculty participants.
  - 2) In recent months, the E.C.C. authorities have stepped up their political repression. The anti-imperialist organization, Afro-Asian-Latin American Peoples' Solidarity Forum (Newark) has been subject to frequent campus police harassment, arbitrary refusal to even meet with the Solidarity Forum to discuss gaining legal permission to distribute literature, threats of arrest, etc. The attacks on the Solidarity Forum reached the point where the administration fired a staff worker who is a member of the Solidarity Forum, and openly admitted it did so purely for political reasons.
- The Newark Student Movement, the communist organization on campus, had one supporter banned from the college and was subject to constant police harassment ordered by the administration. The administration themselves have led physical assaults on NSM activities.

- 3) The administration, the campus police and the Newark police launched a full-scale raid on a public meeting held by the Newark Student Movement on October 28, 1976. The police violently attacked the NSM member and three other students. The police physically prevented students from attending the meeting. The administration and the campus and Newark police brought complaints against the students who were attacked by the police. The students were charged with accounts that carry sentences of anywhere from 3 to 35 (?) years in prison. Newark Municipal Court set bail at \$20,000 bond for each of the students involved in an attempt to keep the true facts of the attack behind bars and away from the students. When this failed and the NSM returned to campus to distribute a leaflet denouncing the attack, the campus police "escorted" the student off of campus property. The campus police seized the student's I.D. card and announced that he was no longer a student at E.C.C. Further, the campus police threatened to beat up and kill supporters of the NSM who were present. This all occurred off of college property and was technically illegal, showing that the E.C.C. authorities will violate their own laws if it aids in their political repression. About a week after this incident the students received written notices that they were suspended from E.C.C.
- 4) The facts show that the Essex County College authorities have constructed a program designed to crush all opposition to their views and policies that include among others:
- a) fascist rules and regulations
  - b) total control over so-called student organizations
  - c) harassment and intimidation
  - d) physical attacks, arrests, suspensions, jailings, court injunctions
  - e) firing of faculty and staff

In light of all the above, the students gathered here this 28th of December 1976, declare that this situation is intolerable; and further agree to form a committee in order to fight against political repression at Essex County College and to defend the right of students to participate in political activities. This committee is the E.C.C. STUDENTS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE. Furthermore, the students gathered here agree to support and implement the following slogans of action:

DENOUNCE THE ADMINISTRATION-LED TERRORIST POLICE ATTACK ON THE MEETING OF THE NEWARK STUDENT MOVEMENT!

OPPOSE THE SUSPENSION FROM E.C.C. OF THE ANTI-FASCIST STUDENTS!

DEPEND THE RIGHT OF STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY!

Anyone interested in doing work with the committee write to:

P.O. Box 9189  
Newark, New Jersey 07104